

whole French army, including a strong corps of cavalry, was within a few miles of Quatre, Hras."

[ANNEX TO THE PRECEDING CHAPTER.] The state of the popular mind and the curious aspect presented by Paris to the stranger during these days of sudden change have often been described, but seldom better than in the words of an accomplished English lady, a partisan of the Bourbons, who had the courage to await the arrival of Bonaparte.

We were enjoying the breezes of a fine March morning when suddenly an officer issued from the Palace and whispered to us that *Bonaparte, had landed* ! Had a thunderbolt fallen at our feet its effects could not have produced a more terrible sensation than did this unexpected Intelligence on our hearts. We instantly returned home, and that night it was no longer a secret in Paris. Some could not conceal the terror the name of Napoleon always inspires; others, judging from their own loyal sentiments, exclaimed, " *La main de Dieu y est* !" Another party, appreciating present circumstances, rejoiced in the idea that he would be taken and secured forever; as if Napoleon, in risking the chance of success, had not secured the means of insuring it! The King issued an *ordonnance* declaring him a traitor. The Chamber of Deputies was convened; an express sent for Marshal Ney. The King preserving admirable calmness and confidence in his subjects, received the Ambassadors, saying, " Write, gentlemen, to your Ministers & tell them I am in good health, and that the mad enterprise of this man will no longer trouble the repose of Europe nor my own." * The Prince de Condé, notwithstanding his advanced age, offered his services.

His Majesty passed in review the troops, addressed the most flattering compliments to their generals, who surrounded him, and issued to General Rapp, " *Malgré que cene mil perne tekenne? de l'intention de vous enlever votre bravoure et votre fidélité !* " He then, affected, turned away and exclaimed, " One must be a villain to betray such a King." He rendered

¹ Louis XVIII. and his Ministers at first were so affected by the prospect of success. In telling Talleyrand of Napoleon's intentions the King said, " You will no doubt have heard of his attempts to enter Paris. I took at first the measures which I judged most calculated to make him repent of it, and I am confident of their success." He informed the Ambassador that Napoleon was " firmly persuaded that the tranquillity of Europe would no more be disturbed by it than I was myself." (Talleyrand's *Confessions*, vol. II, p. 107). On his side Talleyrand wrote to Napoleon, " We have no reason to fear the success of his enterprise." (Talleyrand's *Confessions*, vol. II, p. 108). Later, however, Talleyrand told Napoleon that the cause was safe, and to let time run on as this had been done to Oathbad to " look after his liver."